

ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1919.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to the Council my Annual Report for 1919.

During the War period the Reports were curtailed, as it was impossible to carry out the work efficiently, and I am sorry to inform you that though matters have been more normal there has still been a great difficulty through want of men and material in carrying out the sanitary work intended.

I have to thank the various officials for the ready help in any difficulty that arose, and their assistance in compiling this Report.

I beg to thank the Council's active assistance in granting the necessary expenditure in any scheme brought forward for the advancement of the District, and their strong support in asserting our rights.

The Industries of the District are varied and very important from a national point of view, and are a very pregnant factor in the Health Statistics of the District.

The principal Trades are as follows :—

Ironstone Mining.

Ironworks.

Steelworks.

Shipyard and Ship Repairing.

Slag Crushing for Agricultural Manure.

„ „ Road Making.

„ „ Concrete Work.

Slag Wool for packing Engines and Buildings and Refrigerators.

Ironstone Mining is carried out by Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd. in the Cleveland Hills. The Mines are wrought on the latest principle, and every contrivance for the well-being of the workmen is carried out. The air courses are good and the roof is so high that the dust problem in mines is practically absent, and there is no firing trouble amongst the miners. The principal deterrent is falls from the roof, causing fatal or serious accidents. The Miners, as a rule, are strong and healthy.

Blast Furnace Works for the conversion of the ironstone into bars of pig iron follows. This is one of the staple industries of the District, and pig iron is made by—

Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd.

Messrs. The Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd.

Messrs. The Tees Furnace Co., Ltd.

representing to a very great extent the Cleveland Iron Headquarters.

The work is very arduous, and in some departments it requires men of the highest physical qualities, more particularly the mine fillers, metal carriers and chargers.

There is a good deal of dust connected with the calcining of the stone, and this, associated with the sulphur gas given off in the burning of the stone, causes a good deal of Bronchial mischief.

Many of the men are exposed to extremes of heat and cold, and steam from the cooling of the beds. These difficulties are gradually improving through the effects of the eight hours shift, and the Companies allowing the kiln men to go home as soon as the work is finished.

I have given an account of the Ironstone found in the neighbourhood in the Cleveland Hills, but when we come to the higher grade (foreign ore) we find a much greater danger from the formula of carbon monoxide gas, which frequently lays the workmen out, and there have been many fatal attacks in previous years. This matter is now much improved by the men recognising the danger, and the Companies being prepared to deal with such cases. The patients often need oxygen, combined with

artificial respiration. The Companies keep trained men, night and day, to deal with these cases: they have oxygen and other requisites to hand.

The gas generated by the furnaces is now put to a commercial use after being washed. The Companies use it in driving engines, and sell it to neighbouring gas works for illuminating power. As the mains conveying the gas from the furnaces gets clogged up it is requisite to clean these out at stated times. This used to be a very dangerous work, and many fatal seizures occurred: experience has taught men to realise the danger they are running, and the Companies in many instances provide sandwiches and hot coffee in the early hours of the morning for those engaged. Rescue suits are at hand, men are stationed to give the signal before any mishap can happen, and the result is very satisfactory, not necessitating the help of the doctors, who are in close touch with the operations.

The Steelworkers have wrought for many years under the same depressing conditions as applied to the Blastfurnacemen, but the variety of the work is so great that you get a better average. The men employed in some of the departments have to stand greater extremes of heat and cold than even the blast furnace men, more particularly when you take for example the smelting departments, the rolling department, soaking pits, and hot banks and loading banks. We again find that the shorter hours has improved the social, physical and material condition of the works people.

STEEL INDUSTRY.

This industry has increased materially during the last few years, and is now considered one of the leading trades of our neighbourhood, and has already been stated to be very enervating to the workmen engaged, bringing it well within the region of a hazardous occupation.

Machinery is now a very important factor in relieving the men of the more laborious conditions that existed in the past years. In the earlier history of the steel trade fatal and serious accidents necessitating amputations of limbs were very common, but to-day these have been very materially reduced by the introduction of safeguards and the workmen being more conversant with the work.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIRING.

The above trades are now a very important factor in our District, and employ practically three thousand men regularly.

In regard to shipbuilding the work is fairly healthy, but exacts a pretty severe toll in fatal and serious accidents, particularly from falls into the hold, and materials dropping from a height, and staging giving way.

The ship repairing and docking of steamers is increasing daily, as the firm engaged in this work specializes in this class of work and provides four large docks, which meets the wants of all the vessels trading to the Tees. Vessels from all parts of the world are continually passing into these docks for surveys or repairs; and are manned by crews of all nations. The same dangers occur here as in the Shipbuilding Trade, but this is greatly aggravated by the introduction of infectious diseases, as the crews usually live on board and comprise all nationalities. Whilst a ship is in dry dock they are prohibited from using the closets and urinals on board, and have of necessity to use those situated around the docks. As a local Authority we have on one occasion prevented men from leaving their ship who had been in contact with Smallpox, but we provided the necessary vessels to be placed on board for the excreta, these were changed regularly by the Council employees and promptly disinfected.

DOCKERS.

There is a good deal of loading and unloading of ships in our Area—a large quantity of foreign ore being brought from Spain, Africa, Norway, Sweden, and other parts for the Iron and Steel Works here. The work is heavy and irregular and is carried on to a great extent by casual labour, who are irregular in their habits, and cannot stand any serious ailment. There is the loading of ships with pig iron, steel rails, ship plates, etc., for export—and the same conditions exist, though in a lesser degree. When one goes over the various trades carried out in this District, we must come to the conclusion that the work is of a hazardous nature, and entails a great strain and a lowering of the vitality, producing a much higher death rate than is found in the general work of the country. This state of affairs can be helped considerably by the Employers of Labour insisting on proper sanitary conditions in the works, and the providing of open spaces for recreation and games. This can be further enhanced by providing suitable houses in healthy areas and providing incentives for raising the social status and the encouragement of thrift.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., and their workmen have erected a substantial Hospital, which provides medical and surgical treatment for the workpeople and their dependents. The Hospital consists of 60 beds for men and their dependents, and is managed by a Committee of Members nominated by Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co. and the employees who contribute a poundage subscription for the upkeep of the Hospital. The medical and surgical work of the Institution is carried on by the Medical Staff, who are the regular attendants of the employees, and they are assisted in this work by two Consultants who advise when necessary in their different spheres. The Chief Consultant takes over the ordinary medical and surgical cases,

and the other devotes himself to the eye, throat and nose. There are ten medical men on the staff, who carry on the work, and the Committee employ an anaesthetist and radiographer from amongst the general staff. There is a matron, 3 ward sisters, 1 operating-room sister, 2 staff nurses (fully trained), 4 assistant nurses, and 2 probationers, and the usual kitchen and ward attendants. There is a Hospital porter and gardener. The work of the Hospital is very creditable, and caters for 75 per cent. of the people in the area. There is a proposition before the Committee at present for further additions to the building.

The Township has an interest in Holgate Hospital, which is run by a Committee of Guardians, who are drawn from Middlesbrough, Eston, Thornaby, and the neighbourhood.

The Eston Urban Council have an Infectious Disease Hospital about the centre of the area. This consists of 4 Wards and the ordinary annexings, and this provides accommodation for 40 patients. Owing to the amalgamation of Normanby and Eston into one area, arrangements have been completed for the erection of a new Sanatorium near the Cleveland Hills. This has a fine southerly approach and will tend considerably to building up the enfeebled patients.

During the year there was a fairly large increase in the number of notifiable diseases, more particularly Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Influenzal Pneumonia. Many of the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria could be traced to contact in the Schools.

In reference to the Pneumonia I might state that the Influenza of 1918 continued into 1919, and many of the cases were found on ships coming to the Ship Repairing Yard. On one of the ships the conditions of a Lascar crew were so bad, that the Council assisted me in furnishing a School Room for their treatment, and the result was very satisfactory. The Medical Practitioners in the area are kept supplied with Anti-Toxin by the Council, and all cases not going into Hospital are treated with Anti-Toxin at once.

Malaria has been very prevalent amongst returned soldiers, but they have been treated through the National Insurance as Panel Patients, or sent to different Hospitals by the Military Authorities. Several cases of Dysentery and Trench Fever have been treated under similar conditions.

Our bacteriological specimens have been sent to the Lister Institute, and have been of great service in treatment, more particularly in Tubercular cases. I visit the homes of all supposed contacts, and instruct them how to proceed.

In regard to Isolation and Disinfection we use the Sanatorium for this purpose, and have an up-to-date steam Disinfecter.

In regard to Non-Notifiable Diseases to which children are specially susceptible, we usually disinfect the Schools at the week-end.

The mortality from Influenza was as follows :—

43 Deaths attributable to Influenza, and

92 to Pneumonia, most of them following on Influenza.

In connection with this Epidemic, I sought the help of the Lister Institute on several occasions, the analysis was very similar and helped considerably in the treatment. My experience in this work helped me to arrive at the conclusion that many of the lives lost might have been saved had the patient taken to bed earlier ; many people try to work it off by taking sweating powders and following their ordinary work.

The medical men in this Area notify the Tuberculosis cases fairly well, necessitating no action by the Council.

POPULATION.

Census, 1911	..	..	..	27,026
Estimated, 1919	..	..	..	30,000

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF DISTRICT.

The district has an area of 4,558 acres and is bounded on the north by the River Tees, on the east and south by the Guisborough Rural District, and on the west by the Middlesbrough Rural District and County Borough of Middlesbrough.

The northern end of the district is about 30 feet above ordnance datum, and rises gradually about 70 feet to about two-thirds of its length from north to south, afterwards rising abruptly to its southern boundary to a height of 650 feet 0in. above ordnance datum. The subsoil throughout the district with the exception of small areas is a strong clay.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole of the sewerage of the district, with the exception of a small area, discharges openly into the River Tees, without treatment ; the excepted portion is treated by filtering the effluent, finally discharging into the River Tees after being used for works purposes.

The Council have under consideration sewerage schemes for improving the present system, also providing for extensions.

There are three separate outfalls—one 4ft. 6in., two 3ft. 0in. in diameter.

SCAVENGING.

The pan system is in use practically throughout the district. Privies and ashpits are being converted to water carriage, and will be completed during the next twelve months. It is contemplated to convert the pans as soon as circumstances permit. A number are done yearly by agreement with the owners. The contents of pans and ashpits are removed during the night, the whole being carted on to farms in the district. There is no difficulty in disposing of same. Dry house and shop refuse is gathered during the day with covered dust carts and carted to tips. All paper is burnt.

Where conversions are made moveable, ashbins with proper covers are substituted. The number fixed during the past 6 years is—

1914	..	..	..	..	..	209
*1915	..	..	..	..	..	53
†1916	..	..	..	..	..	14
1917	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
1918	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
‡1919	..	..	..	..	..	86

*Year of Amalgamation.

†Conversion discontinued in June owing to War conditions.

‡Conversions were not re-commenced till August owing to want of material.

HOUSING.

The total number of houses is 5,841; the number for the working classes being 5,500.

Number of new houses for the working classes erected during the year or in course of erection—8.

Population estimated at present—32,000, with anticipated annual increase of 1,000 due to industrial changes.

Extent of shortage of houses—2,520.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage—1,000 working-class houses likely to be built during the next 3 years by persons other than the Local Authority. Approximate number of new houses to be provided by the Council is 1,520.

OVERCROWDING.

The approximate number of houses intended for one family only, which are now occupied by two or more families, is 250. The cause being increase of work and want of building during war time.

Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding—a Housing Scheme is now in operation, and two of the principal employers of labour are busy formulating a Housing Scheme. The firm of Bolckow, Vaughan & Co. arranging to build 600 houses.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of housing in the district is fairly good. There are 150 houses seriously defective but can be made habitable, and 7 inhabited houses which cannot be made fit for human habitation. No action can be taken till accommodation can be found for the inmates. The work is proceeding as well as labour and material will permit. The water supply is good, closet accommodation is very much improved—in many cases have been replaced by W.C's. The refuse has been disposed of at regular intervals in a satisfactory manner.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Practically all the houses have a piped service, the water supply being that of the Tees Valley Board. This supply is derived in part from impounding reservoirs in the upper reaches of the Balder and the Lune. The supply is said to be ample and is constant, and the water to be of satisfactory quality, soft, and without action on lead.

DEATHS.

During the year 1919 there were 540 deaths registered in the district—of these 303 were males and 237 females—equal to a death rate of 18.00 per 1,000, whilst 33 deaths of Eston District persons occurred outside our Area, and 19 deaths of non-residents were registered in the District; thus giving a corrected rate of 18.4 per 1,000 population. The number of deaths registered in 1919 show a decrease of 29 on those for 1918. On dividing the deaths into age groups I find that—

114 deaths occurred under 1 year of age.

101 over 1 year and under 5 years.

21 over 5 years and under 10 years.

17 „ 10 „ „ 15 „

27 „ 15 „ „ 25 „

78 „ 25 „ „ 45 „

92 „ 45 „ „ 65 „ and

90 over 65 years of age.

In taking into consideration the onerous work carried out in this industrial area, and the fact that the Influenza Epidemic was still raging at the beginning of the year I consider the death rate is not excessive. The main causes of death which show an increase over the previous year were: Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Senile Decay, Convulsions, Measles and Enteritis.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number deaths under 1 year of age during the year was 114, corresponding to a mortality rate of 140·3 per 1,000 births. This number shows an increase of 8 deaths on the previous year.

The chief causes of death under 1 year of age, were due to Epidemic Enteritis, Convulsions, Congenital Debility, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Meningitis. There is no doubt that the conditions were greatly aggravated by the aftermath of war, and we trust this will be greatly diminished by the better sanitary conditions, the improvement in the housing conditions, more natural food, and the work of the Child Welfare Section.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Inquests were held respecting the deaths of 36 persons, viz. :—

Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	17
Drowning	..	..	..	..	..	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	1
Misadventure	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sudden Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	12

Most of the sudden deaths were caused by Heart Affections ; 3 deaths due to accidents occurred at Eston Hospital, 2 at Smiths Dock, 5 at Bolckow & Vaughan's Steelworks, 2 at Cargo Fleet Ironworks, 1 at South Bank Furnaces, and 4 in Streets or Houses.

When one takes into consideration the hazardous work in the Area, we cannot consider the toll of fatal accidents as excessive.

BIRTHS.

During the year 1919 there were 812 births registered in the District, of these 413 were males and 399 females, equal to a birth rate of 27·0 per 1,000 population. The births for 1919 show a decrease of 108 on those for 1918.

STILL BIRTHS.

During the year the bodies of 23 still-born children were buried at the Cemetery for the District, the numbers for the various Quarters being 2, 6, 6, 9. This number is a decrease of 3 on those for 1918.

The birth rate is quite in keeping with the general conditions throughout the country.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past year 293 cases of Infectious Disease were notified (exclusive of Measles), which shows an increase of 72 cases on the previous year. On dividing these into groups, I find that the following were notified :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	66
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	50
Influenzal Pneumonia		..	..	..	58
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	15
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	9
Membranous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		..	..	..	1
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		..	..	..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		..	..	..	62
Others Forms of Tuberculosis			..	..	26
Total ..					293

MEASLES.

772 cases of Measles were notified during the year. The disease was spread practically throughout the district, mostly due to contact ; many of the cases were of a mild type, although in some instances Pneumonia followed. It is very satisfactory that, considering the number of cases, only 30 deaths occurred attributable to this disease, equal to an approximate rate of 0·23 per 1,000 of the population.

SCARLET FEVER.

66 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, equal to a rate of 2·2 per 1,000 population. No deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.

50 cases of Diphtheria were notified, equal to a rate of 1·6 per 1,000 population. 9 deaths occurred, equal to a rate of 0·3 per 1,000 population.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Nine cases of Enteric Fever were notified, equal to a rate of 0·5 per 1,000 population. Two deaths occurred.

INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA.

Fifty-eight cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, equal to a rate of 1.9 per 1,000 population. One of the chief causes of death during the past year was Influenza, there were 43 deaths attributable to Influenza, and 92 to Pneumonia. During the epidemic of Influenza same precautions were taken as in 1918—leaflets were distributed, houses were fumigated and general advice given.

ENTERITIS.

Twenty-three deaths were caused by this disease during the year, 16 of which were under 1 year of age.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year 62 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 26 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. This shows a decrease on the number of cases notified during the previous year. There were 32 deaths caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 30 deaths by other forms of Tuberculosis.

TYPHUS FEVER.

One case of Typhus Fever was notified from Normanby District. This was an isolated case in the Area, and the only history that could be got was that the patient was an apprentice in the shipyard, and at meal hours was in the habit of looking over the ships which were being repaired in the Docks. I might draw your attention to the fact that the case previously reported was a workman at the same shipyard, and that both cases proved fatal.

SMALLPOX.

One case of Smallpox occurred on board the S/S “Manaar,” lying at Smiths Dock. This case was removed to the Hemlington Hospital by the Tees Port Sanitary Authority. A special report was made out and forwarded to the Local Government Board at the time, with regard to the action taken by our Council. No further cases followed, which was very satisfactory, and well repaid the expense necessary in carrying out our work.

Arrangements have been made for fixing a Smallpox Hospital at the bottom of the Cleveland Hills.

SANATORIUM

During the past year 71 cases of Infectious Disease were treated in the Sanatorium, as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	35
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	28
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	8
Total ..					71

Four deaths occurred of Diphtheria Patients and two of Enteric Fever Patients.

The work of the Sanatorium was carried on by the Matron (Miss Wratten) and her Staff in a most satisfactory manner. Every attention was given to the patients, with the result that with the exception of the cases mentioned above (these were of a severe nature and in a weak condition when admitted), all the patients recovered.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Although no actual work was done with regard to this Scheme during the year 1919, the matter was discussed with the result that we have now a Committee chosen, rooms arranged and the work properly marked out. The assistance of the County Council Local Nurses has been obtained, with the consent and approval of the County Medical Officer, and the work shall be in full swing in 1920.

SCHOOLS.

The Medical Officer of Health is not himself the School Medical Officer, but supervises the sanitary conditions of the Schools in the ordinary way, and has the Schools fumigated at intervals.

On two or three occasions the Schools, on my instructions, were closed, owing to a break-down of the heating apparatus, and again during the epidemic of Measles. This was considered advisable in regard to the health of the scholars and as a means of checking the outbreak.

The amount of Poor Law Relief during the year 1919 was £867 16s. 9d.

Population 1911	..	..	..	27,026
Population 1919	..	..	..	30,000

HOUSING.

Unhealthy Areas	..	..	..	Nil
Closing Orders ..	..	..	..	Nil
Demolition Orders	..	..	..	Nil
Obstructive Buildings	..	..	..	Nil

J. STEEL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1919.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Returning to my duties in February after three years' military service, I found that many records and inspections had been suspended owing to the War, practically the whole of the Officials having taken up military duties. As a consequence the past year has been one of re-organisation, and great difficulty has been experienced in getting the larger demands of notices complied with, owing to the shortage of both material and labour.

The supply of privy pans in the district was totally inadequate to meet the renewals necessary and led the Council to purchase pans in quantities for re-sale, and though the supply at the end of the year showed signs of improvement, it was by no means normal or sufficient.

The supply of sanitary fittings was also very irregular and restricted, and has greatly retarded the progress of conversions, both pan closet and privy midden.

In the month of July the question of a pure food supply was discussed by the Council, and I was instructed to take samples of milk and foods on behalf of the Council.

Arrangements with the County Analyst were duly made and I commenced taking samples in October, a detailed result of which appears in this Report.

During the year the claims for compensation for destroying infected bedding, which I had no means of satisfactorily disinfecting, led to the purchase of a steam disinfector of the portable type, and although the bedding of scarlet fever and diphtheria patients is not steam disinfected, the machine has proved most useful in cases of typhoid fever, tuberculosis, etc.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

During the past year 1,312 informal notices were served upon the owners and occupiers of properties in respect of nuisances existing thereon, and in very many cases the nuisances were abated without further action being necessary. The remaining cases were the notices not complied with and were reported to the Council.

Upon your instructions, **210** statutory notices for the abatement of nuisances were served during the year, including **136** notices for the substitution of water closets and ashbins in place of the old privies and ashpits.

The following is a summary of the various headings under which notices were served :—

			Number of Informal Notices by Inspector	Number of Statutory Notices by order of Council	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice at end of year
Defective Privy and Refuse Pans	..	..	906	63	888
Pan Doors Defective and Missing	..	..	228	..	218
Yard and Water Closet Drains Defective and Stopped	..	..	39	1	36
Greater Structural and Sanitary Defects	..	..	28	6	24
Minor Structural and Sanitary Defects	..	..	33	4	33
Limewashing	..	..	10	..	10
Fowls Improperly Kept	..	..	18	..	18
Defective Yard Paving	..	..	26	..	24
Accumulations of Manure	..	..	3	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	21	..	20
TOTAL			1,312	74	1,274

At the end of the year there were 38 notices still not complied with.

Many nuisances were abated during the year on verbal intimation to both owners and occupiers and 251 yard and water closet drains were unstopped by the Council's workmen without notices being served.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The work of converting the old privies and ashpits into water closets was again commenced, after being in abeyance during the war period. At the end of the year 55 conversions had been completed and 30 were in course of alteration. There is approximately 120 of this class of convenience in our district which will be reported for conversion in due course.

The work of converting pan closets into water closets on the voluntary principle resulted in 46 of these being completed by the end of the year, which is very good considering that the materials were not obtained till late in the year and the difficulty in finding labour. I am at present well booked up with the names of persons willing to convert this class of closet, on the Council's present offer to help them. The offer covers about three-fourths of the cost and well repays those who take advantage of the offer for the convenience they receive.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year all cases of Infectious Disease, enumerated in the Report of the Medical Officer, were visited, full enquiries made in each case and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of infection.

The following are particulars of houses and other buildings fumigated as well as the disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc. :—

	Houses	FUMIGATIONS, Schools and other Buildings	Rooms	Lots of Bedding and Clothing Disinfected
Infectious Diseases other than				
Tuberculosis	203	14	296	21
Tuberculoiss	23	..	39	5
Cancer	12	..	18	2
Various	26	..	41	3
TOTAL	264	14	394	31*

* The Steam Disinfector was not delivered till late in the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of workshops on the register, including bakehouses, is **73**. Particulars as to each trade carried on is set out below

Bakers and Confectioners	6
Joiners, Cartwrights, Cabinet Makers & Undertakers	3
Tailors, Dressmakers & Milliners	1
Boot Repairers	11
Plumbers	4
Painters	6
Miscellaneous	..
TOTAL	7

The whole of the workshops were visited during the year, which resulted in 15 notices being served as follows :—

Insufficient and defective Sanitary accommodation	4
Limewashing and Cleansing	5
Accumulations of Refuse	3
Defective Drainage and Paving	..
	15

Many minor nuisances were abated on verbal intimations and without notices being served

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The taking of samples of food and drugs was commenced in the month of October. The number of samples taken and result of the analysts' reports are detailed below.

Articles taken				No. of Samples.			Adulterated
				Formal	Informal	Genuine	
New Milk	..	..	..	12	..	11	1
Ground Rice	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Tincture of Rhubarb			..	1	..	1	..
Ground Almonds	..	..		1	..	1	..
Camphorated Oil	..	..		1	..	1	..
Precipitated Sulphur			..	..	1	1	..
Lard	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
TOTAL				16	2	17	1

All the 12 samples of new milk were the mornings supply. The average percentages of fat and non-fatty solids being—

Fat 3·92%

Non-Fatty Solids 8·87%

These averages are very satisfactory, and go to show that the general milk supply in the district is of good quality.

The sample of milk shown in the adulterated column was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 3·4%, which, as stated by the analyst, may have been due to natural variations in the milk.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

During the year this important branch of the work has received most careful attention, as far as possible all carcasses are examined at the time of slaughter, and up to the present my relations with the butchers in the district have been most satisfactory and in no case of condemnation has my decision been contested.

The work of inspection is often very difficult, especially in the warm weather when the butchers delay killing till evening, the whole of the killing taking place at about the same time, but in case I am not present, I give every encouragement to the butchers to acquaint me of any abnormal conditions at my house, in which case I immediately proceed to make an inspection.

The total quantity of food surrendered and destroyed during the year amounted to approximately one and a half tons, which was made up as stated :—

Whole carcasses and internal organs—

Cows	..	..	2
Bullock	..	..	1
Sheep	..	..	5

The remainder consisted of heads, tongues, lungs, livers, stomachs, intestines, hams and bacon, and frozen beef.

There were also 572 eggs surrendered and destroyed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of slaughter houses in the district at the end of the year was 14—all of which have been inspected almost weekly.

There were no notices served on any of the slaughter houses, as any verbal request with respect to limewashing or repairs was attended to without undue delay.

LODGING HOUSES.

There are only two lodging houses in the area, one having been discontinued during the war.

The accommodation in the two lodging houses which still remain is greatly in excess of the requirements, consequently there is no fear of overcrowding.

Both houses have been periodically visited, and although I had to serve one notice for limewashing on each of the keepers, they appear to do their best to keep their houses clean and in good order.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These trades are practically negligible. Several of the butchers boil the tripe of the animals they kill ; and one person carries on a business as tripe boiler, but no labour is employed on offensive trades in the district.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

There are 16 cowsheds and 33 milk sellers within our district.

All the cowsheds were visited during the year, and with the exception of limewashing, were in a fairly satisfactory state.

Most of the milk sellers only deal with a small daily supply, and in the course of my inspections I have only had to draw their attention to minor matters, such as providing covers for the receptacles to prevent contamination by dust.

In summing up the Report and taking into consideration the Industries of the District, I consider the Council should feel gratified with the year's working, more particularly when we take into consideration the unsettled condition of the country during 1919 and that our hands are tied in dealing with overcrowding through a scarcity of houses and the difficulty in getting repairs completed.

We hope that 1920 will inaugurate a new era, and that we will be able to go forward.

Trusting this Report meets with your approbation.

I remain,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN STEEL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

April, 1920.

